

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (*Original*) A method for communication over a network that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information comprising:

registering with a discovery machine a first user and a second user, wherein said first user maintains a first client machine and said second user maintains a second client machine, wherein said first client machine, said second client machine and said discovery machine are coupled to a network;

initiating a communication from said second user via said second client machine to said first user via said first client machine through said discovery machine;

determining that said first user will accept said communication;

establishing a direct link between said first client machine and said second client machine; and

delivering said communication;

wherein said direct link is not established if said first user does not accept said communication.

Claim 2 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said direct link closes after said communication is delivered.

Claim 3 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

Claim 4 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of said second user initiating a new communication to said first user by establishing a new direct link between said second user machine and said first user machine.

Claim 5 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.

Claim 6 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.

Claim 7 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein an individual entry in said plurality of contact

information is automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.

Claim 8 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.

Claim 9 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

Claim 10 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

Claim 11 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein a one-directional communication link is sent to said third user when at least one of said first and said second user replies to said new communication wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

Claim 12 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining that said first user will accept said communication further comprises the step of storing notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

Claim 13 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said discovery machine is a central server.

Claim 14 (*Original*) A method for communication over a network that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information comprising:

initiating a communication from a first user via a first client machine to a second user via a second client machine utilizing an augmented email address that functions appropriately only between the first user and the second user;

receiving at the second client machine the communication utilizing the augmented email address and validating that it was received from the first user via the first client machine.

Claims 15-17 (*Canceled*)

Claim 18 (*Original*) A method for electronically distributing software that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information comprising:

establishing a first identity of a client, wherein said client on a client machine has said first identity;

requesting a software package download from a central server via said client machine wherein said central server and said client machine are coupled to a network;

downloading said software package to said client machine;
installing said software package on said client machine;
sending a registration of said software package to said central server; and

passing said registration to a manufacturer of said software package.

Claim 19 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said central server is a plurality of machines linked on said network.

Claim 20 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said software package is downloaded from said central server and hosted on a distributor website for download by said client machine.

Claim 21 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said software package further comprises a software

product, a distributor agreement and a marketing description pertaining to said software product.

Claim 22 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said manufacturer sends an update of said software package directly to said client machine.

Claim 23 (*Original*) A method for distributing a new software product containing a communication module over a network that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information comprising:

establishing a first identity for a user, wherein said user is sent said new software product via said network;

disbursing a first incentive to said user for creating a distribution setup for said new software product;

establishing a second identity for a new user;

connecting said new user with said user via said network after at least one of said user and said new user has confirmed at least one of said first identity and said second identity, wherein said new software product is transferred from said third part to said new user, wherein said new user installs said new software product and registers as an identified user of said new

software product via a central server coupled to said network;
and

disbursing a second incentive to said user.

Claim 24 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 23,
wherein said user is in possession of said new software product
prior to establishing said first identity.

Claim 25 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 23,
wherein said first identity and said second identity is
established via a discovery machine linked to said network

Claim 26 (*Original*) The method as recited in claim 23,
wherein said first and said second incentives are currency.

Claims 27-32 (*Canceled*)